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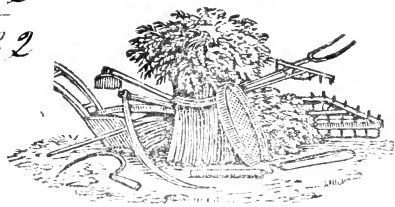


OR

THE CAUSE OF THE FAILURE

OR RETARDING

THE

INTRODUCTION

OF SILK AND WINE

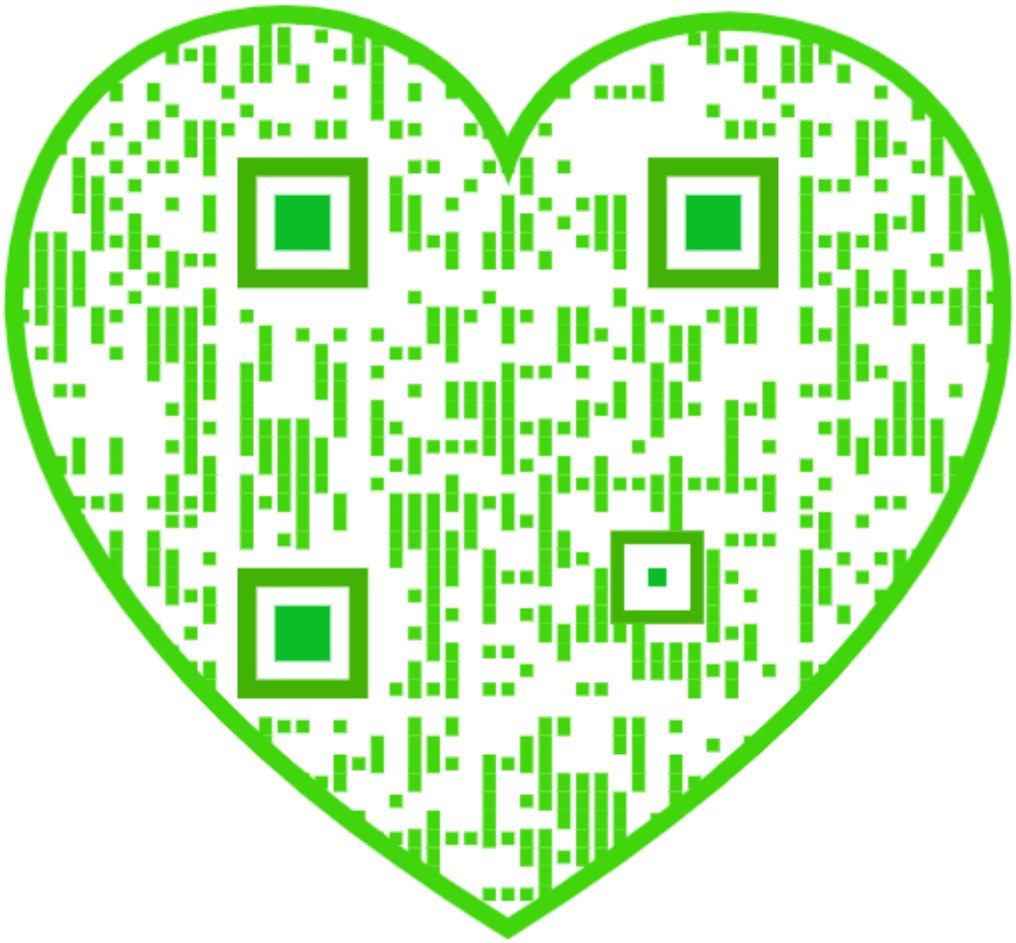
INTO THE UNITED STATES:

TOGETHER WITH

Various letters and communications on the subject,

BY E. MAURY,
First promoter of the Culture of Silk by a Memorial to Congress on the introduction of that valuable article into the Union.

CINCINNATI:
1832.



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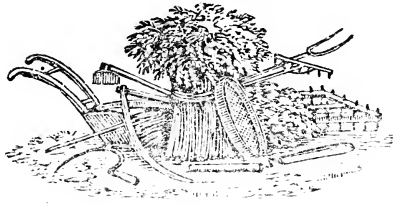

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CINCINNATI:

PRINTED AT THE OFFICE OF THE WESTERN TILLER.

1832.

S 143

DISTRICT OF OHIO, To Wit:

L. S. Be it remembered, *That on the* 13*th day of October, Anno Domini,* 1832, *E. Maury, of said District, hath deposited in this office, the title of a book, the title of which is in the words following, to-wit:*

"The silk undertaking abandoned; or the cause of the failure or retarding the introduction of Silk and Wine into the United States: together with various letters and communications on the subject, by E. Muary, first promoter of the culture of Silk, by a memorial to Congress on the introduction of that valuable article into the Union."

The right whereof he claims as author and proprietor, in conformity with an act of Congress, entitled, "An act to amend the several acts respecting copy rights."

Attest,

WILLIAM MINER,
Clerk of the District.

INTRODUCTION.

To ameliorate the condition of man, to advance the cause of civilization, to diffuse the various and rich blessings of a great First Cause, and to render them useful to the different nations upon earth, are some of the benefits and results of commercial enterprise and agricultural skill. It is the privilege of every individual, either in the obscure walks of life, or in the more blazoned paths of distinction, to devote his time and faculties in any pursuit, to which his genius, education or habits may impel him: and though sometimes it happens, that his efforts are thwarted by unforeseen difficulties, by the jealousies of rivals, or the pretensions of ignorance and presumption, which are received in lieu of the more certain results of practical skill and science; yet in the end he will triumph, and a generous community, when disabused of their errours, will promptly repay their former neglect, by successful aids and hearty co-operation in the designs of the author, inventor, or propagator of some public benefit. Particularly in the United States is this the case. They contain a nation of enterprising individuals, who compass sea and land, to subject to their use and benefit, the arts, sciences, products and manufactures of other lands.

Americans are in no respect more remarkable for their original invention, than for their improvements up-

on the inventions of others. Generalities in science are reduced to practical uses. Nor does this alone confine itself to mechanics or mechanical philosophy. The great variety of soil and climate enables them to adopt, transplant, foster and improve the products of like soils and climates, in regions beyond the seas. The great staples of sugar, cotton, rice, and indigo, have almost swallowed up the commerce in those articles, from their indigenous countries. There are yet other fabrics and improvements, tending to man's comfort, which may be subdued by American capital and enterprise. Among these are two which are daily becoming more prominent, and gradually drawing to their adoption, the talent of the curious and speculative, and the practical examination of the statesman and patriot. I mean the culture of the grape and silk worm. In both subjects, but particularly in the latter, the author of these pages has had a thorough *practical education and experience.* And it will be found by him, who peruses this work, that nothing is alledged but what is capable of demonstration, and that the reasons, why the culture of the silk-worm and manufacture of silk have as yet progressed so little in this country and have not more loudly demanded the countenance of the councils of the nation and of the states, are fully, freely and frankly set forth. The result of these reasons may be stated in a few words. That all attempts and experiments which have been made, omit the most important part of the scheme, viz: the choice of ground, the proper preparation of soil, the planting and cultivating the mulberry tree, for the proper food of the worm, and the obtention of a proper quantity and quality of the cocoon. Learned essays have been written; wonderful prospects were

holden out; fine theories have been adopted. But nothing has yet been done practically from the beginning "ab ovo." The highest possible improvements may be made in the mechanical construction of a mill, in the application of power to drive its machinery, and the most certain results of its performance may be predicted; but if the ground is not prepared for grain, and the grain is not sown, it will be difficult for that mill to yield any flour.

It will be the object of the author in the Preface to show what he has attempted on this subject, how he has been foiled, and the consequences likely to result from the great disposition to adopt *theory* in lieu of *practice*. In the preface, will be embodied the correspondence and views which he has had with distinguished men on this subject. The attempts and partial efforts made by some of the states in this matter, and the reasons why they failed. After which he will in the body of the work critically examine and expose the defects, inaccuracies, and false theories in the work of J. D'Homergue, and P. S. Duponceau.

The testimonials in the possession of the author, both from foreign countries and distinguished citizens of this, will be a sufficient guarantee, that there will be no attempt in this work to palm himself upon the public for what he is not;—nor to set on foot a speculation, by which he may put money into his pocket, at the expense or to the impoverishment of credulity. Had that been his purpose, he might long since have accomplished it, and retired with his unlawful gains, to laugh at the imposition which he had practised; instead of that he has already devoted years of time and labor, in observation of soil and climate, and the collection of information;

and his pecuniary means in travel and expenses, without having asked or received remuneration from any.

He still hopes, for when does hope ever expire? alone in affliction or death—he still hopes that the day is not distant, when the attention of the statesmen and patriots of this country, will be directed in the right channel, to institute and conduct large manufactories of silk and silk goods, of equal quality with any other country, and to furnish them to the citizens at a reduced price; thus giving aditional stimulus to our own labor and skill, encreased activity to capital and enterprise, and a corresponding decrease to foreign importation.

PREFACE.

When I arrived in America, it was with pleasure that I observed so extensive a continent well adapted to the production of many valuable articles with which Europe is blessed, but of which this country is deprived: particularly silk and wine. Before however making up any opinion on the subject, or coming to any determination, I thought proper to examine the climate, soil and situation of the country. I accordingly examined various parts of the Union, which I either made my residence or very frequently visited. I can enumerate twenty states, in half of which I resided some length of time, and the remainder of which I visited frequently upon business; and thus had an opportunity of acquiring a correct idea of their natural characteristics. I studied also the effect of sudden variations, in the weather, on the plants and vegetation of the country, which I found indeed remarkable, compared with those in European countries under the same degree of latitude. I apprehended that, taking into consideration the difference of temperature under the same degree of latitude in America and Europe, and allowing about nine degrees of heat, for that difference, in favor of Europe, the Mulberry tree and wine plant required a totally different method of rearing in this new country, to obtain a desirable and durable nutriment for the silk worm, and a substantial fruit for wine.

Having been stationed several years in the South, West and Middle states, I enjoyed the fullest opportunities of reviewing the nature of the soil and climate, of informing myself minutely concerning every attribute of both, with a view to practical operation, in case I should commence the introduction, into this vast territory, of the wine and silk of Europe as a permanent

blessing to America. It will not perhaps be amiss to inform the readers of these few pages, upon what my claims to a knowledge of this subject are founded.

I will therefore mention that before I came to this country, I superintended in Lombardy, Venetian states, several years, in toto, many establishments for carrying on the production of silk and wine, belonging to my parents and others: as also, in general, the necessary operation of agricultural improvement, particularly in the perfect cultivation of the mulberry tree, to the full approbation of experienced agriculturists, and of those immediately interested in the concerns under my charge. I have attended to, and followed every branch with success, and have acquired all the practical information necessary to enable me, in a country with which I am familiar, to impart the proper operation of silk making; planting and cultivating the mulberry, to raising the silk worm and making raw silk.

That the manufacture of silk may be established in the United States, with permanence and advantage, in about four years after the planting and successful culture of the mulberry tree, without any difficulty or mystery, I shall endeavor to show in the next book:— I shall also delineate in that work a general view of the manufacture, and endeavour to point out the various errors of the different theories that have been brought before the public on this subject.

In November, 1819, I was induced by several of my acquaintances to visit Washington city, and present a memorial to Congress, explaining my views upon the subject. Mr. Meigs, commissioner of the Land Office in Washington city, appreciated my views, and proposed to me to have the memorial presented by the Hon., his son, a representative in Congress from New York. But the petition was not listened to, and I retired. By the request of my friends I visited Washington again the following session of Congress. This time I matured another plan, which would have subjected the government to no expense whatever. As the second plan was well matured and preparatory to the first, I

was certain of full success. The President and Secretary of State approved it, but the Senate did not act upon it. I retired entirely, and directed my route to Baltimore; where I remained a few months, and presented a memorial to the Legislature of Maryland, for the improvement of agriculture in that state. But the circumstances of the state did not permit them to take any steps on the subject. I was requested, however by a member of the Legislature, to return the next session, at which time the house would be at leisure to consider and accept my proposal. I then continued my route to Virginia, in pursuance of my private business. While there in 1826, I read, in a number of the Norfolk Beacon, a resolution of Congress, authorising the Secretary of the Treasury to collect the necessary information for the introduction of silk into the United States. I called at the house of a gentleman, a representative in Congress, and signified to him my claims to familiarity with the subject, and explained minutely the answers to the 18 queries, inserted in the resolution of Congress, in the best manner that government could desire. But I observed to him at the same time, that a hundred or more queries in addition to those proposed, even if well explained, would be of no benefit in the introduction of silk into the Union. And further, that no books, pamphlets, or communications, on the subject, could be of any use in attaining that desirable object, unless those who projected a scheme for the raising of silk could be instructed, in every particular necessary to be known, and that by a practical person from Europe, well acquainted with every branch of agriculture; and especially the cultivation of the mulberry tree; as also much collateral knowledge respecting the silk, &c. &c. from the first operation to the last. I likewise observed, that even practical European men would be unsuccessful in the cultivation of the silk or vine, in this country, if they did not take into consideration the situation of the country, and act accordingly, and many other combinations necessary to be obtained in order to insure full success in the undertaking.

The gentleman alluded to, requested me to write to Mr. Rush, Secretary of the Treasury, a communication upon the subject; promising to accompany it with a letter from himself, inclosing mine, containing my opinion that, all the information which could be obtained from all parts of the globe, upon the raising of silk in the Union, would be of but very little assistance in the practical process in this country. But I suggested, at the same time, the most practicable plan which could be adopted with ease and success. The letter was dated the 16th October, 1826, and directed to the Treasury office, Washington city. Much other information preliminary to the culture of silk, was inclosed in the letter. Several months from that time I went to Delaware, in pursuance of some affairs of my own, and was induced to remain there until the Legislature commenced. In the meantime I had the perseverance and patience to pass my time, for nine or ten months, in attendance upon a very small business, until at length the Legislature met; when I discovered the impossibility of making any attempt to commence it in this state, or to induce other States or the Union, to follow the example if they should set it.

But the act afterwads passed, though without any provision whatever for the payment of expenses which became absolutely necessary. However I carried my object so far as to commence operations. As my ultimate view was the maintenance of an establishment, I chose a spot near Wilmington, and advertised the time of opening the book for subscription, according to a resolution of the trustees of that county. But from the non attendance of the Trustees or commissioners at the day appointed, it was neglected, and I resolved to give public notice, that the opening of the books would be postponed until new notice should be given: and there the affair remains to this day. So much for the negligence of the Commissioners appointed by the Legislature of Delaware They accepted this appointment only from the paltry ambition of having their names appear in the newspapers, to be noticed by the public as

men chosen in that capacity. To have acted honorably, would have been to retire from office, if they had any objection against serving, either from any slanders against me personally, or from any opinion hostile to my project, to have resigned their appointment, would have been acting with spirit and openness. It would have given me an opportunity to have other commissioners appointed, perhaps more active and dilligent in their engagements, and thus lay the first foundation of my success; and also enable me to remain in the state until I should at least have formed the head of an improvement of great importance to the state and to the whole Union.

What nature would not have resented the ungenerous treatment I endured, from the day of my arrival at Dover, to my departure. I was compelled to defray, from my own means, all the expenses incurred in printing and distributing copies, and also in travelling over the greater part of the state to procure and make a location to commence the work.

These pages are not written from an interested motive, nor to blind the public by false reasoning, or persuade them, by deceitful calculations, of extraordinary pofit in silk manufacturing——reeling, twisting, and throusting—by manufacturing, in the mind of the nation, treasure upon treasure: thus inducing them to adventure their capital—

"*Like little wanton boys, that swim on bladders.*"

Further explanation on this subject I shall reserve for the next book.

But I wish to convey a correct idea of the cause of the failure or retarding of a manufacture of such vast importance, after so many attempts made with sincerity and correctness, to forward the nation in so profitable an establishment. The attempt on my part originated in philanthropy; not in speculation. I am now resolved to desist entirely from the efforts which I once intended to make for the introduction of silk and wine into this vast Territory of North America, founded on such practical instruction, as would enable the inhabitants

to carry it on with such regularity and precision, as to make it an hereditary blessing so long as the world should exist. My sincerity has undone me.—Losses of time, trouble and expense have been so great, that I have, in the first place, been obliged to abandon my private pursuits, which I consider more valuable than any: Secondly, I have spent my means in travelling ten years for this great end. And now I find the country inundated with speculators and slanderers, by whose artifices the patriotic intentions of good and enterprising individuals have been frustrated.

But before I raise the last step of my first proposal to the people of the Union, I will mark, behind me, as I leave the path, the principal cause of the failure to introduce, into this country, the culture of silk and wine. I will raise the veil that masks ignorance and blame worthy presumption, and leave to them that repentance and confusion which their temerity and sophistry deserve. I would again repeat that it is not my intention to endeavor to mislead the public mind. My work shall not add another to the list of imposing treatises which have been the means of producing, to the enterprising men who have read them, confusion in their endeavors and mortification in their results. I should have committed an unpardonable error, had I pretended to instruct the nation in the production of these valuable articles, by means of pamphlets and communications, or to induce them to adventure into this new field, with no guide but their own experiments, and the mere information of books, without any practical experience in any branch requisite to the art, either in the proceeding in Europe, or the operative work in this country. I should consider myself not less culpable, than if I should, by writing a false theory, induce a man to follow blindly the course to the arctic pole, when I knew that he intended to seek the antarctic point.

My readers are aware, by this time, that I consider theories only, without practical and well founded experience, as calculated to create confusion and disappointment to the adventurer, and force him to abandon the

pursuit, after many trials—season after season—in which both time and money are wasted. It would perhaps have been better than the present state of things, if the nation had never read a book upon the subject, but had made experiments by their own judgement, as they might then be convinced of the necessity of practical instruction, instead of making trial after trial, with only the dim light which books and communications afford. For however complete a book may be, (and none complete have yet been presented in this country on the subject,) there are numerous important branches of practice which they cannot teach, or even suggest. Let a judicious and well qualified person, who has been familiar with every part of the business in Europe, and who knows the nature of American soil, climate, and situation, by many years of actual residence, lay for them a practical and permanent foundation, and they can follow the pursuit with benefit and success. In Lombardy books are not considered at all necessary by the farmers. They can read no volume but the prayer book, and sometimes even that is committed to memory from verbal communication: and yet they find no difficulty in raising silk worms, in which they make, generally a very abundant crop of cocoons, &c. They keep their plantations in perfect order; and though there is a factor in those plantations, to suggest occasional directions, yet in general they act according to their own experience in the business, upon which the manufacture of silk has been established in that country for many centuries. Their knowledge is permanent: and although, within a few years, the employment of large capitals has led to some additional improvement in the building and machinery necessary for carrying on the manufacture, yet these improvements are founded entirely upon the old method in every important point. And a person must learn the old method by practical instruction, which is easy, but still requries regularity, and good management in every branch, or the adventurer will be liable to disappointment, after he has made preparation for the new method, and embarked his cap-

ital in the enterprise. A lawyer must have a knowledge of the old laws and the old constitution, or he will have some difficulty in acting under the new. A musician must have the foundation of the old system of music in order to comprehend and practice upon the new.

European countries owe their vast improvements in various arts to the legitimate instruction of individuals who are largely remunerated by the government, and protected from the machinations of impostors and speculators. By that means the government and the nation obtain the benefit of talents proved to be superior by the practical effect of their suggestions. They are not liable to be imposed on by theories; for however great the benfit of the improvement proposed may appear, the proposer receives nothing until the work terminates as he foretold. For example, the improved method of irrigating the field might be mentioned, as the best and most profitable that a government ever encouraged. As this is foreign to the subject before us, I ought not perhaps to enlarge on it. However, considering it connected with agriculture, manufactures, and the arts, it may be proper to say a few words concerning it. The blessed element there distributed, not only secures to the population the crops of every description of plants and trees, but also assists them with its power. It passes into the city, and under the houses, sometimes visible and sometimes invisible; assisting, in its progress, every manufacture, whether grist mill, saw mill, or spinning mill, it reaches the great and magnificent silk establishment, then branches out into the suburbs in all directions. After traversing these branches this invaluable element may be traced into the country, where it continues, by its power, to assist the various establishments erected in all parts of the country. The same branches are finally seen in every direction to *irrigate* the soil of every farmer who stands in need of its aid. In fact this great and beneficial work surpasses every thing that human ingenuity can invent. For its durability, and the treasure it opens to the population and the government, it may be compared to a mine of gold

and silver, running through the country, without interruption during the year.

A man invented and executed the plan, but the government paid the expenses, and also a large sum to reward the inventor. This water is divided into hours, (as the gas in some of your large cities,) and the farmer who buys it, enters it upon the public record; and the number of hours he contracts for, becomes as the real estate itself—as a part of the land, and subject to a tax. This tax is very moderate. The government makes all the repairs necessary, in bridges, canals, ditches, &c. Already have they received the expenses incurred in the construction of this great improvement; and the nation will continue to receive incalculable benefit from so noble an invention—and that for ever: and the farmer and manufacturer will be continually improving.

But, to return to our subject, I will offer a few observations on the books and pamphlets on this subject. I have seen the letter of Mr. Rush, printed by order of Congress, containing much instruction upon different branches, either for the cultivation or manufacturing of Silk; and it is decidedly the best book that has been printed. But still it could only be useful in some instances to practical men.

The first suggestion would naturally be, to inquire into the cause of the numerous failures and disappointments attending the enterprising agriculturist upon this important subject. The answer is obvious, and simply this:—That the culture of silk has become a subject of mere speculation for the ignorant—the very persons to whom the agriculturist looks for instruction, and from whose speculative theories, he deduces his experiments: Hence his unsuccessful efforts.

The book written by Mr. Peter Stephen Duponceau of Philadelphia, and Mr. John D'Homergue, both Frenchmen, entitled "Essay of American Silk, and the best means of rendering it a source of individual, and national wealth; with directions to farmers for raising Silk Worms," has I discover, my name in the first page of the preface, which induces me to look over the book

with some degree of interest, in order to discover if it contained any important instruction for the introduction of this great improvement into the Union—so desirable since 200 years have already passed since the attempt was first made. Let us examine:—First. Mr D'Homergue, p. xiii, of the preface, says he "is a young Frenchman, the son of an eminent silk manufacturer, at Neims, in Languedoc. Although he has since chosen another profession, he was originally brought up to his father's business, and has been innitiated in all its mysteries. It will be easy to perceive, by reading his essays, that he unites to experience in his art, a strong and solid judgement with a clear view of the interest of this country, and of the best means of pursuing it." Well done! well done!! Again. "M. D'Homergue came to this city from France, in the month of May, 1829, at the instance of an association, named the Silk Society of Philadelphia," who had authorised a gentleman going to France, to procure a person well acquainted with the raising of silk worms, and spinning cocoons, to instruct the inhabitants of that city in the art. When Mr. D'Homergue arrived in Philadelphia, his pretensions were no less than twenty thousand dollars in hand and two thousand five hundred annually, for his salary. The silk society declined of course, such a demand, and the question has been brought before a court of justice by Mr. Duponceau, his advocate. The Society offered him one dollar per day, by the year, although sufficient quantity of cocoons could not be procured in Philadelphia, to require one month's work, and even those of a very inferior and imperfect kind, as may be seen by the report of the society. That was the first foundation laid by Mr. D'Homergue on his arrival in Philadelphia from France.

As the mulberry tree is the first article to be attended to in the raising of silk, I shall first examine the Theory of Mr. D'H. on that subject. In 88th page, 20 lines from top, he says, "I have said nothing on the planting and cultivation of the mulberry tree; in the first place, it would have swelled this work too much; and because

I do not think that information on this subject is so much or so immediately needed, as on the other branch of this important object of culture. Mulberry trees appear to be raised without much difficulty in every part of the country; and it appears to me that the mode of its cultivation is pretty generally understood." Indeed the planting and cultivation of this tree in the proper mode, and the choice of the ground &c. is not understood. True we have abundance of mulberry trees in the wild woods, and some transplanted in the settlements, but this mulberry is not fit for the permanent nurture of silk worms. We might use it to feed a few thousand worms, the first year, but the next year we would be disoppointed. Or we might substitute it for food in cases of extreme necessity, but will discover a great deficiency in the quality of the cocoons in the crop. The mulberry trees in gardens or in the public walks of Philadelphia, have been planted, I suppose, for shade, and not to feed silk worms, which might be the cause to create an epidemic in the city.

I visited many parts of the country last year and I have never yet met with a mulberry tree that could be employed for the food of silk worms. The prospect of commencing the foundation of this great improvement is almost passed away. The government has spent considerable money already in passing laws and resolutions, in procuring information, in printing books, and in condescending to reprint pamphlets; and the effect of it has been to cause the adventurer to abandon the experiments in disgust, without any success. See my communication, signed Agricola, in page 19.

As Mr. D'H. has had his silk manufacture established two or three years, I hope he will realize immense profits from it; especially as he has the advantge of the fine collection of books in their possession on the subject of silk manufacturing, as appears in their pamphlet above mentioned. But any manufacture, without material to mauufacture, will be as good as a candlestick without candles in a dark apartment. Mr. D'H. attempted three scessions, by petitions to Congres, to draw

forty thousand dollars from the public treasury, for teaching 60 young men to spin cocoons; although there was no prospect of such a quantity or quality as to justify any adventurer in the manufacture of that article. Congress might in this way throw away the whole treasury of the United States, and yet the nation be disappointed in the results of this splendid and valuable improvement. (See Mr. Smith's communication page 30.)

If this manufacture was once permanently introduced into this country, it will be carried on to a greater extent than is desirable: as it would require too great a number of workmen in spinning cocoons, in clerks, superintendants, manufacturers, filatures, &c. &c. To a capitalist who wishes to embark in such a beneficial undertaking, and will have every thing in readiness, I will insure in one season, when the material could be had permanently, to procure more workmasters in every branch of silk in this country, than could possibly be employed. Several gentlemen engaged in silk in Italy were very desirous of commencing a filature in this country, if the permanent foundation could be established—but not in the imaginary argument printed in books and pamphlets.

The object of this pamphlet is to bring before the public some of the circumstances attending the author's efforts to introduce the culture of silk in the U. States; hereafter a book containing a more detailed account, with much of what has occurred since the commencement of his labours in the cause, to the present time, and much other general and useful matter will be offered to the public.

COMMUNICATIONS &C.

NO. I.

A communication written by E. Maury, and published the 24th of August, 1828, in the Delaware Advertiser printed in Wilmington, Del. over the signature of Agricola.

SILK WORMS.

Mr. Editor—It certainly constitutes a source of lively interest to every true patriot and philanthropist, when we reflect upon the prosperous condition of this highly favoured country, enjoying as it does numerous advantages and various blessings, among which is independence. We also possess an immense territory, and our population is rapidly increasing. With the spread of knowledge in the various arts and sciences we find it necessary to pay attention to agricultural improvement.

The Silk worm and manufacture of silk, would no doubt be one of the most sublime improvements in this vast and well adapted country, and would be a lasting benefit to every citizen whatever may be his age or condition—to the emigrant, rich or poor—-and finally, would be an inexhaustable source of wealth to our Government.

But we should not commence this great work without mature deliberation, or we shall never attain to any thing of consequence. We may induce many to turn their attention to the growing of mulberry trees and the raising of silk worms, by offering premiums, or trying every imaginary experiment by the aid of books written by eminent authors either in Europe, or this coun-

try; but the disappointment will appear in the practical way. That proceeding will be entirely vain to obtain the desirable object of a mercantile silk. A preparation for the cultivation of that article cannot be made in less than four years—when we shall be ready to commence. During the four years which it will be necessary to allow the mulberry to come to perfection, the ground so occupied may be tilled in the ordinary way, and produce annual crops of corn, tobacco, cotton, &c. but less time than this will not answer to insure permanent success.

My experience in the science of agriculture, has been derived from a devotion of many years of my life to its pursuit in Europe, where I obtained the best practical information—especially that branch adapted to the raising of silk worms. I had not only a large establishment of my own, but superintended those of several other persons with success—and have also acquired a practical knowledge of manufacturing silk. In 1820 I memorialized the honourable Congress upon this subject, but a press of other business prevented a timely attention to it. If a simple description, or treatise on the silk worm, would in any way benefit the country, I should, before this time, have taken up the subject; but this has already been done in Europe, by several eminent writers.

I have understood that the Legislature of Delaware have passed an act for the encouragement of the growth of silk worms and the manufacture of silk; and that some enterprising citizens of this State desire to turn their attention to the subject: this has induced me to submit my views to the public.

The proper mode for carrying this object into effect, would be to form an agriculture in practice, on an eligible spot in this State. Or I would suggest some practical plan which would meet with general approbation. I could attend in many other States in the Union at the same time, which would be more likely to promote the success of the undertaking.

AGRICOLA.

NO. II.

A communication written by E. Maury, and published in the Delaware Advertiser, of September 25 1828.

SILK WORMS.

I answer the communication signed "Colonus," in the Delaware advertiser, dated the 4th September, requesting general information on the subject of introducing into the United States the culture of silk, and a new system of Agricultre in order to obtain the benefits of the soil for an article so desirable.

This is an object deeply interesting to every American, and one which ought to arrouse the attention and excite the emulation of every public spirited citizen throughout the Union. In my opinion, the multifarious works which have been written upon this subject, alone detailing theoretical knowledge, often contradictory in their systems, tend to confuse and distract the mind of the cultivator, and nothing will ever contribute correct information upon the subject but practical experiments.

From what has already been accomplished the entire practicability of introducing or rearing silk worms in this country can no longer be questioned, but as it is now conducted, it can never become an object of much importance either to the individual concerned, or to the nation at large.

We readily admit that the whole process, from the planting of the mulberry to the formation of the cocoon, of the quality now generally produced in this country, is extremely simple. To produce cocoons of this description requires no elaborate treatise of the naturalist, nor laboured reports of Agricultural societies—no practical lectures from experienced manufacturers, nor information from any European country. And I am willing to admit that from cocoons of this cast, sewing silk may be obtained, equally as strong as any imported from Europe; nay, further, that with sufficient time and expense, silk cloth, on a small scale, and of an inferior

quality, may be manufactured—yet such a result will fall infinitely beneath the calculation of individual adventurers, and be utterly unworthy the patronage of the National Legislature. I will refer to my first publication in the Advertiser, dated 24th April last.

To insure success in this great public interest, much previous preparation will be necessary.—That the superstructure may be ample, magnificent and beautiful, the foundation must be broad deep and stable: In other words, much practical knowledge, derived from experienced agriculturists, both American and European, but especially from the latter, will be indispensibly necessary to insure the wished for result. Without this, every attempt, however extensive the establishment, and however promising appearances may be in the commencement, will ultimately be blasted with complete disappointment.

I have paid strict attention, for several years past, to agricultural proceedings in the United States, with a view of introducing the culture of Silk and the Grape: but unless the business be conducted on correct principles, taking into view the climate and situation of the country, and commenced on an extensive scale, capitalists can feel no sufficient inducement to invest their funds.

Should several State Legislatures make the culture of Silk a State concern, and in addition to this, should the Congress of the United States patronize it as a great national object, and incorporate many distinct companies of capitalists—one for growing the mulbery, raising the silk worm, and preparing the cocoon—another for reeling and spinning the silk—a third, fourth, fifth, for manufacturing the different kinds of silk cloth—and should these establishments be duly fostered and encouraged by the State Legislature and by the General Government, the undertaking would be crowned with the desired success.

But suppose that after a trial of several years in experiments and observation, a few adventurers should succeed in producing something better than this cocoon,

and thus create a sufficient inducement for others to commence the business on an extensive scale? Should any be induced by such slender encouragements to enter upon such a romantic speculation, they would be constrained, after much labor and expense, to renounce the pursuit, sit down in despondency, and eat the bitter bread of disappointment.

Remarks similar to those now made upon the manufacture of silk, might be made upon the culture of the vine in this country. In each of these pursuits, unless we commence on correct principles, according to climate, soil, situation, &c. we shall always be, sicut eramus in principio—so that after all the little experiments made by American, French, Swiss and German vine dressers, if we wish for a glass of good wine, we must still look to the East. We may make wine and say it is as good as Bordeaux, but still, so long as we pursue our present mode, all our good wine must come from abroad. And if we seek for elegant silk dresses, we must still have recourse to the beautiful fabrics of European looms.

AGRICOLA IN DELAWARE.

As I have seen the signature "Agricola" frequently used by various writers—political, as well as agricultural—and as I do not grow *presidential* articles in my garden, nor cultivate cockle in my wheat, I shall choose to adopt the above signature for my articles upon the cultivation of silk.

NO. III.

A communication published in the Wilmington, Del. Gazette and Watchman.

MULBERRY TREES AND SILK WORMS.

MR. EDITOR.—Permit me to add a few remarks to those which appeared in your paper of the 10th instant, on the subject of the mulberrry tree and silk worms:

the first step in which is the preparation of the soil, and then the planting and proper cultivation of the trees.

As the Legislature of this state has passed a resolution to encourage the undertaking by the promise of a medallion and certain benefits to those who may succeed in cultivating the mulberry tree, the planting and raising them in perfection is so much our interest, that it is presumed every one will desire to make the necessary preparation, in order that the soil may be made congenial to the tree, so that leaves may be procured from it which will afford the proper kind of food for the silk worms. When we plant apple, or any other fruit trees, it is with the view to obtain fruit from them; but the planting of mulberry trees should be attended to with the view of obtaining the leaves for the nourishment of the silk worms; and attention should be paid to having them in that state of perfection which would cause them to produce the article in such quantities, and of such a quality as to be of the greatest possible use: for in proportion to the quantity and quality of the leaves which they furnish, must, in a great measure, be the products of the silk worms which are fed upon them.

It is well known in regard to cattle, that in proportion to the degree of attention which is paid to them, and the quality of the food with which they are supplied, will be the quality of the milk, butter or cheese which is obtained from them; and if the closest attention should be paid to them in other respects, and the quality of the food should be indifferent, it would be folly to expect from them those articles in that perfection in which they are furnished when that consideration is properly attended to.

The cultivation and trimming of the trees, after they are properly planted, will require to be attended to by persons well acquainted with that branch of the business; and no others can be expected to perform it properly. A man may understand the pruning of apple, peach, or other fruit trees; but may be a very unsuitable hand to perform the operation upon the mulberry tree.

The difference in the process in the case of the two kinds is very great. The trimming of apple, peach or grape branches is done with the view to the fruit, while those of the mulberry is done with the view of procuring the leaves; and that which will produce a very good effect in the one case, will have an opposite one in the other.

I shall procure suitable hands to attend to that branch of the business, to keep the trees in proper order to supply the leaves in the proper degree of perfection; and those who desire it, may, by observing their performances, become acquainted with the business themselves.

For some particulars, I desire to refer to certain passages in the article which appeared in your excellent paper of the 10th instant.

I shall hereafter offer a few observations in relation to the eggs of the worms, which is the next consideration in the progress of the business, after the preparation of the soil and the cultivation of the trees have been properly attended to. The quality of the eggs is an important matter in the process of raising the worms; and close attention should be paid to this valuable insect by an experienced hand, from the incipient stages of the business to the formation of the cocoons.

E. MAURY.

NO. IV.

WASHINGTON CITY, March 8th, 1822.

The President of the United States:—

DEAR SIR—I have waited on you twice in company with Mr. E. Maury, to have the pleasure of introducing him to you in person. Your engagements prevented my seeing you. I have for several years been personally acquainted with Mr. Maury, and believe him to be a gentleman of good character, well informed, and deserving of confidence. He has become a citizen of the

United States, travelled over the greater part of America, and resided some time in Missouri. He is well acquainted with agricultural pursuits, and had the advantage of experience in mercantile affairs. He will make known to you his wishes, to which if you can accord, you will oblige him.

Your respectful ob't servant,
JOHN SCOTT.

Having been personally acquainted with Mr. Evaristus Maury, I entirely coincide in the opinion of the Hon. John Scott, expressed in the above page.

L. WM. DU-BOURG,
Bishop of New Orleans.

Baltimore, March 31, 1823.

NO. V.

CHARLESTON, 10 August, 1821.

SIR:—This will be handed you by Mr. Evariste Maury, an Italian gentleman, many years a resident merchant in this city, and a citizen of the United States, in which capacity during his residence here, his general conduct was that of an honest, upright merchant, and good citizen, and warm friend to his adopted country, the United States of America. He visits Florida with a view to his future prospects in business, in that Territory, &c. Permit me the liberty to recommend this gentleman to your countenance, attention, and friendship.

I have the honor to be, with great respect,
your most ob't servant,
DAN'L STEVENS,
Late Intendant of Charleston.

His Excellency,
Gen. ANDREW JACKSON,
Pensacola, Florida.

NO. VI.

ST. AUGUSTINE, December 1st, 1821.

SIR:—As it is your wish to improve the systems of Agriculture in the United States of America, and particularly as it regards the importation and culture of vines and silk—should you go to Europe, or write to induce Europeans or others, acquainted with the culture of grapes and silk, and the making of wines, to emigrate to Florida, it will afford me great satisfaction to give you, or any one under your auspices or recommendation every facility in my power. And on our establishment of societies for Agriculture, &c. here, I shall with great pleasure present your name and pretensions for a distinguished place, if not at the head of such associations.

Yours, with all due respect, &c.

W. G. D. WORTHINGTON,
Secretary and acting Governor
for East Florida.

EVARISTE MAURY, Esqr.

NO. VII.

A communication taken from the American Farmer.

BALTIMORE, October 2d, 1829.

☞We have before made known the object of the Silk society in Philadelphia, whose exertions to give practical aid and encouragement to the cultivators of silk, entitle them to the thanks of the country. Were it not for disinterested associations like theirs, the most valuable discoveries and pursuits would often fail for want of individual *skill* and *capital*, to conduct them. For the formation of societies and the establishment of institutions really useful, Philadelphia has ever since maintained the decided lead which she took, at least as far back as the days of Franklin.

The society of Philadelphia, for promoting the culture of the white mulberry and the rearing of silk worms, having engaged a person perfectly acquainted with the art of reeling of silk from cocoons, and that of making sewing silk, are ready to purchase cocoons, for which the highest possible price will be given, according to quality. Those who are desirous of learning these arts, will be taught them for a moderate compensation, $12. (A vast difference between this and $40,000 for teaching 60 young men, as modestly asked by a gentleman in Philadelphia.) This measure is necessary, inasmuch as the members constituting the society are few in number, and its funds small. Persons wishing to join it, are invited to leave their names with Mr. Isaac Macauley, No. 24, South Third street. Cocoons will be purchased at the same place. The society was instituted with the view of keeping alive the spirit for the culture of silk, which may become one of the greatest staples of the United States, and of introducing a new branch of industry among the farmers.

NO. VIII.

A communication published in the Delaware Watchman on the 3d of March, 1829.

Mr. Editor.—It must certainly constitute a source of general satisfaction to our citizens, that the state of Delaware will be the first to commence properly the highly desirable improvement of the manufacture of silk. I shall not be reserved in my efforts to render the establishment useful, permanent and profitable. It will not perhaps be unacceptable to say a few words upon the subject of the management of the eggs of the silk worms, to render the undertaking valuable; as of great importance in the progress of the work [illegible] addition to the remarks contained in my communication which appeared in your excellent paper of the 16th and 17th instant, concerning the planting and trimming of the

mulberry tree, with the necessary process to insure a permanent and suitable food for the worms, in proper quantities, from the leaves of this valuable tree, and not to commence any preparation for planting in a permanent spot, until the undertakers should procure a knowledge of the fundamental principles to be attended to, from an experienced agriculturisl, and being proceeded in with regularity and system. Thereby the propagation of the pernicious insect called the caterpillar will be prevented, which are frequently deposited under the roots of the tree, and afterwards ascend and devour the leaves in the summer; which is one of the causes to which the failure of success is to be attributed. This is an irreparable evil; and sometimes the trees are dried up the ensuing season. A similar circumstance I have known to occur in Washington square in Philadelphia, where the caterpillars climbed in such quantites up and down the trees, and surmounted every obstacle in their course, so as to make their passage indisputable, until they have devoured the whole of the leaves of this valuable tree.

With regard to the eggs, I would recommend, first, to choose the cocoons from a crop in which the worms have not been affected with such sickness as to affect the next propagation, and that the eggs should be provided in the Spring only. This advice will be found to accord with the views expressed by Mr. Secretary Rush, in his manual on the subject, printed by the order of Congress, page 101, where it is said, collect the eggs which have fallen on the cloth covering the shelves of the tressel, and put them in a box in layers not more than half the breadth of the finger. The cloths raised from the tressel, when quite dry, are to be folded and placed in a dry room, the temperature of which does not exceed 65, and is not below the freezing point, and leave the cloth there until Spring. During the Summer the cloth must be examined to remove insects. To preserve the cloths always in fresh air, place them on a frame of cords which should be attached to the ceiling, and inspect them every month.

There exists a notion that every two or three years the eggs should be changed. This change is only necessary when the worms have sustained sickness; otherwise the eggs of your crop will be as good as those of your neighbor can be. Then you will obtain the eggs only in the Spring, and dispose of them only at that time. All these considerations should be attended to with precision and regularity to obtain success in the undertaking.

The price of the eggs, when the matter is attended to by a practical and intelligent person, should be about from four to five dollars per ounce in this country, which would be a good price, an ounce containing from 34 to 40 thousand eggs. The eggs, about the quality of which there may be any uncertainty, can command no price, for they are only calculated for amusement. But when the business comes to be put into proper operation, the price will be in proportion to the quantity in the market and the extent of the demand, which are matters which must regulate themselves.

I shall hereafter continue to present my remarks according as the affairs of the Delaware Silk Company shall progress; and I shall be happy to afford information to any who may desire it, upon any subject connected with the business, as remaked in my last.

E. MAURY.

NO. IX.

A communication written by G. B. Smith, and published in the Globe.

THE SILK BILL.

BALTIMORE, March 15, 1832.

SIR:—The bill now before Congress for the promotion of the culture of silk, has been allowed to progress thus far with scarcely a passing notice. This is the third session that it has been before Congress. During the session of '29—'30, when it was first reported,

I took occasion to review its provisions with freedom, through the Baltimore Gazette; and I believe I am the only one in the Union who has openly opposed its passage. As it is again before Congress, I beg leave once more to state some of the reasons why I think it ought not to pass. This I should not deem necessary were the members of Congress acquainted with the state of the silk culture, and the nature of the business in the United States; for if they were, it is impossible that a bill with such provisions could obtain attention in that body.

The bill appropropriates *forty thousand dollars*, to be given to Mr. Duponceau in trust, to be given to John D'Homergue, to enable him to establish a silk filature, for reeling silk; and all that D'Homergue is required to do, in consideration of these forty thousand dollars, is to instruct sixty young men in the art of reeling raw silk and preparing it for market. The young men are to be taken from each state and territory in the Union, in proportion to population; and they are to attend five months in each of two successive years, in Philadelphia, to bear their own expenses of travelling to and from that city, and while there. All the silk reeled—all the profits of the establishment—even the proceeds of the work of these young men—and all the property and *material* to be the absolute property of D'Homergue. These are the essential features of the bill; and now for the objections to it:

1st. There is not at this time, nor will there be for several years, mulberry tress enough in the United States, available for silk worms, to employ a filature to the extent contemplated in the bill, twenty days—consequently the money would be wasted; for it must be borne in mind whether the young men attend or not, whether Mr. D'Homergue get cocoons or not, at the end of two years, the money is absolutely his, and he is under no further obligation.

2d. It is believed that there are not 60 young men in the Union, able to bear the expense that would devote the time and money required to carry them through a college of any of the learned professions, to the acquire-

ment of merely the art of reeling silk. Is there a single member of Congress that would send his son to the filature on such terms and for such an object? I unhesitatingly say that the project will fail from this, if not from the first objection.

3d. This mode of encouraging or establishing a new business is novel and injudicious. All governmental patronage should be open to the competition of its citizens; not partial and confined to favored individuals.

4th. It is injudicious, because it will impress upon the public mind that the art of silk reeling is so difficult of acquirement, that a two years schooling is required, which is not the fact. Such an impression would do more injury to the silk culture in this country than all the other causes combined. Indeed the very proposition in question has seriously retarded the progress of the business already. Numerous instances have come to my knowledge of persons abandoning the attempt in despair, after hearing of the project before Congress. I must here be permitted to say, that the publications of D'Homergue have had a similar effect. These publications were artfully written to prepare the way for this project. Any one that reads them will clearly see their object—throughout the whole of them there is not one word of practical useful information. The directions for managing silk worms are merely compilations from other works.

5th. The measure is palpaply *unconstitutional*. If Congress can appropriate the national funds to the establishment of silk filatures, they may do so to the establishment of any and every other trade and manufacture. Indeed the force of this branch of the argument is so clear and conclusively apparent, I am astonished that Congress has entertained the subject at all. If this bill passes into a law, there is no object to which money can be devoted, that Congress may not take under its patronage in the same way.

ERRATUM:—In page 18, 10th line from top, for *manufacture* read *article*.

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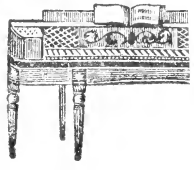

MR. E. MAURY,

Professor of Music on the Piano Forte, has taken the rooms over Mr. Vanausdol's store, corner of Main and Sixth streets. They are large and airy, and well fitted up for the purposes of musical instruction. The testimonials of capability and character, which he has received from those in whose families he has taught, and the institutions in which he has been engaged, he trusts will be amply satisfactory to those who may desire his services.

TO THE PUBLIC.

The testimonials referred to above, have been exhibited to the undersigned. To the opinions expressed in them, of MR. MAURY'S *ample qualifications, we beg leave to add, that he has evinced in the musical instruction of our children and wards, the most unremitting attention, and that their progress has been rapid, ample and efficient. So far as we are able to judge, his mode of instruction is calculated to advance the pupils successfully and satisfactorily in the theory and execution of the science. He is from his ability in our opinion, entitled to the liberal support of our citizens.*

Daniel Gano, John W. Picket, Wm. Woodruff, Oliver Fairchild, Mrs. A. Minor, gn Cincinnati.
H. Downer, Esq. Zanesville, Ohio,
Mrs. M. Tiffin, Chilicothe, Ohio,
Mrs. Virginia Carey, Va.
Mr. & Mrs. Edward, Leesburg, Va.
Tho's Trotter, North Carolina.
Samuel Branch Esq. Henry Watkins Esq. Va.

Piano Fortes tuned and repaired at his establishment: Also for sale.

Cincinnati, Sept. 20th, 1232.